

Spectrum

A Day to Remember

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As the nation gathered on May 19 to remember those service members who have given their lives, there was one person on Sgt. Michael Tang's mind.

"I remember my fallen comrade Sgt. Harris," said Tang, a member of the 202nd Military Intelligence Battalion, at the remembrance ceremony at Augusta's Veterans of All Wars Monument on Broad Street Monday.

Sgt. Taurean Harris was Tang's battle buddy in August 2007. The two were part of a tactical human team collecting intelligence. A rocket pro-



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U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command
Capabilities Manager

pelled grenade struck the windshield of their vehicle. The second RPG killed Harris, and a third RPG sent shrapnel wounding Tang. He received numerous injuries from the shrapnel, said Command Sgt. Maj. Thomas Clark, U. S. Army Signal Center and Fort Gordon command sergeant major, who recounted Tang and Harris' stories, at the event.

"In spite of all that, he reenlisted to stay in our service," said Clark, who was the keynote speaker at the mid-morning ceremony.

Harris and Tang's stories serve as "reminders of why we observe Memorial Day," he said.

At the Georgia War Veterans

Nursing Home also on Monday, Col. John Dewey, U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command capabilities manager for tactical radios, echoed a similar message in thanks to those who served.

"No matter what I say; there are no words that can adequately express the debt owed," he said.

More than one million service members have died in service to the nation since its inception. They are buried under simple white crosses in cemeteries here and some have their final resting place in fields in far-away countries.

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Command Sgt. Maj. Thomas Clark was the featured speaker at the Augusta Memorial Day Observance at the All Wars Monument. He brought with him Sgt. Michael Tang of the 202nd Military Intelligence Battalion, who reenlisted in the Army despite receiving wounds in Afghanistan.



The Fort Gordon Color Guard participated in the Georgia War Veterans Nursing Home ceremony.



The woman passing out flags is Judy Whelan with the American Legion Post 192 in Evans. This photo was taken at the Georgia War Veterans Nursing Home.



Photos by Charmain Z. Brackett

Col. John Dewey, TRADOC capabilities manager for tactical radios, spoke at the Georgia War Veterans Nursing Home ceremony.



The Signal Corps Band played at the Georgia War Veterans Nursing Home.



A little boy waves an American flag at the Georgia War Veterans Nursing Home Memorial Day observance.



(Above) A multi-service JROTC color guard represents all Richmond County schools at the All Wars Monument ceremony and (left) a newly-placed U.S. Flag adorns the grave of a veteran.